

The Visitor

November 2018

St. John's Lutheran Church ELCA • 2190 Jackson Hwy Chehalis, WA 98532
www.stjohnschehalis.net • 360/748-4741 • office@stjohnschehalis.net

Give Thanks



1 Corinthians 1:4-9 *I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you.*

Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

There's a man I met several years ago who I describe as having a "Martin Luther experience." He was from a Christian tradition that was very rules based. He "discovered" Paul's letter to the Romans. "Discovered" grace. Then was kicked out of his community because he started teaching that we are saved by grace not by slavish attention to the rules.

His journey brought him to a Lutheran church. He was enthralled by the preaching and the teaching. His reaction to me, a seminary student at the time, was "You Lutherans get grace and you look like you just lost your best friend."

I've thought about that statement a lot during my ministry. What is it about Lutherans that we get what it means to live by grace (or at least we preach it) but we just seem to be so worried about working so hard to please God? Could it be that

we are just so used to grace that we forget to be thankful?

I encourage you this Thanksgiving to rediscover the gift of Grace. Rediscover what it means to be freed from Sin and striving to please God and released by the saving grace of Jesus Christ to go and be disciples in God's world. In the midst of thankfulness for friends and family, treasures and experiences, remember that ultimate gift given to us through the obedience of Jesus Christ.

For me, that is what is so important about Thanksgiving. It's a moment for us to step back and appreciate those things we take for granted, especially our salvation in Jesus Christ.

And finally—Thank you.

Thank you for faithfully coming to worship to be strengthened in your walk of discipleship.

Thank you for faithfully serving Jesus Christ at St John's and in the community.

Thank you for faithfully wrestling with the Scriptures and how they bear Christ to our world.

Thank you for faithfully supporting the ministry of St John's Lutheran Church with your gifts and offerings.

Thank you for faithfully seeking God's will.

Thank you for faithfully praying that God would lead our congregation to fulfill God's will.

Thank you.

Pastor Matt

St. John's Lutheran Church Statement of Mission:

Rooted in the gospel of Jesus Christ, we exist to:

- **PROCLAIM** God's unconditional love as an invitation to all,
- **GROW** in discipleship as we follow in Jesus' steps, and
- **SERVE** others as instruments of God's Holy Spirit.

St. John's
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Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday
8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Editor:
Linda Lowery

Worship Schedule:

- 8:30 a.m. Worship
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship

Summer Worship Schedule:

- One Worship Service at 9:45 a.m.

What's in the Works . . .

St. John's Council met on October 9. Here are a few notes about what we're working on.

Thanks to all of our committees who meet monthly to keep our church running smoothly.

Altar Guild

- Each month this committee schedules communion preparation and any changes in the paraments that need to be made.
- This committee also takes care of the purchase of communion supplies and works to be sure we are always prepared.

Church Growth:

- We are looking ahead at themes for the upcoming Lenten Devotions. We will be looking for writers soon!

Social Ministry

- We raised over \$1,300 for Crop Walk.
- We are planning ahead for the annual Giving Tree.

Worship & Music

- Planning has begun for Advent events.
- The Annual Pie and Talent Show will be November 4 at 6:00.
- At each meeting we spend time choosing hymns that reflect each Sunday's theme.

Financial News:

Monthly income September: \$24,002
Monthly expenses September: 17,443

	Actual
YTD income:	\$167,852
YTD expenses:	182,806

Worship Attendance:

	<u>8:30</u>	<u>11:00</u>
October 7	69	40
October 14	56	25
October 21	73	36
October 28	76	37

St. John's RISE Lewis County Receives Grant Application Site Visit

At present, our RISE Lewis County Poverty ministry has:

1. Administered the Mobile Meals program where cooperating congregations and community organizations feed an average of 50 people

each week or serve approximately 2,600 meals a year with an additional outreach of approximately 416 take-out meals a year. We estimate that we presently serve ap-

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RISE . . .

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proximately 780 individuals over a year's time.

2. We have also been given a \$15,000 grant to get six to eight homeless families of five into housing with a navigator support system to help them maintain their housing long-term.

Several months ago, St. John's RISE Lewis County applied for a three-year \$30,000 grant from the ELCA's Hunger Fund. If we receive these monies, we will be able to expand our poverty ministries by:

1. Adding an emergency food and gas voucher program to be distributed through Gather and possibly Love INC. Our goal is to provide approximately 450 - \$10 emergency gas and food vouchers that we estimate will impact ap-

proximately 800 lives.

2. Training 50 people over the next 3 years to be volunteer navigators or coaches capable of assisting approximately 500 people a year. (Our immediate goal is to train 10 people in 2019 to assist approximately 100 people.) Navigators walk along-side people in crises and help them address their most critical long-term needs.
3. Stabilizing and strengthening a weekend back-pack meals program for the Centralia School District. The Centralia School District has 148 homeless students. They currently have resources to provide 800 weekend food packs *a year*. We would like to help that school district with approximately 1,000 more and get other congregations and service groups to fund 1,000 more for a total

of 2,800 meals/40 weeks for 70 kids.

Without this grant, our poverty ministry expects to impact approximately 850 people this coming year. However, WITH this grant, we estimate we can touch the lives of approximately 2,185 people each year.

ELCA's Hunger Committee representative Diane Armbrust did a site visit this week and honestly admitted that she is very impressed by the ministry we are doing. She is particularly impressed by the way we are not only addressing immediate emergency needs, but also developing a process that impacts the core causes of poverty. We hope to know by the end of December whether we will be given our full 3-year request.

Kindness Multiplies

The recent Ministry High-lights at each service have been insightful, especially each speaker's personal impressions of the blessings a specific mission has brought him or her. Mobile Meals Ministry has done that for me. I now have just an inkling of what it must be like to be homeless. Yet these people who are the least among us in material possessions and personal security are rich in the Fruits of the Spirit. Their smiles and thank-you's are SO genuine, not automatic social convention. A few days ago, a young Gather guest and I met at an intersection in Walmart. "Cheyenne" gave me a big hug, introduced her boyfriend with whom she had

just moved in, and explained therefore she wouldn't be at Gather. On October 13 at Gather, "Kimmie" ran up and breathlessly asked me if she could borrow the \$6 fee to receive a money order waiting for her across town. She "volunteered" her driver's license for me to hold while she got change for my \$20 bill at the quick mart next door. Some might think this transaction unwise, but I felt good that she had asked me and that we had built a mutual trust.

November 3 is World Kindness Day. These kindness quotes reinforce how little it takes to make a difference.

A single act of kindness throws out roots in all

directions and they spring up to make new trees.

Kindness is a breath of fresh air to someone when they feel like they are suffocating.

If you can't be a pencil to write someone's happiness, try to be an eraser to remove someone's sadness.

One act of kindness won't change the world, but it may change one person's world.

When we feel love and kindness towards others, it not only makes them feel loved and cared for, but it helps us all to develop inner happiness and peace.

Go forth and spread kindness far and wide.

Sue Edwards

You are invited to attend our annual Pie Social and Talent Show Sunday,

November 4 at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Center. Each family is asked to bring a pie to share. Following the eating-o-the-pies, we will be entertained by some of our very own talented members. If you have a talent to share you are encouraged to sign-up on the sheet in the narthex or contact Joan Jahnsen. Come prepared to eat a lot of pie and laugh – a lot!



For all those 55+, the annual traditional **Young-at-Heart** Thanksgiving dinner and program is on **Thursday, November 15 at noon**. Dinner will include turkey and all the trimmings – mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing, pie – everything to make a Thanksgiving dinner complete. All you need to bring is your appetite. Chris Sampson will give a presentation about the new Chehalis Girls and Boys Club following dinner. For more information, contact Nancy Lynch, 748-2124. There is always room for more!

St. John's Women's Ministries

Women's Brunch and Bible Study will meet in the conference room on Saturday, November 17 at 10:00 am. Women are asked to bring a brunch item to share as we continue using the study "*God is in the Laundry Room.*" We will finish our discussion of

the gifts of the spirit as we complete session 7.

The Women's Book Guild will meet at 7:00 pm on November 27 at the home of Katie Giuliani. Nancy Lynch will lead the discussion on the book, *Fall From Grace* by Danielle Steele. If you

are interested in joining our group, contact Joan Jahnsen, 360-748-3901



Severe Weather Shelter

You are invited to the Severe Weather Shelter open house on Tuesday October 30th from 6:30-8:30 pm. The shelter is located at the Southwest Washington Fair Grounds. We have a new location close to the green gate

by Stage South. You can either enter at the Green Gate or drive around using the south entrance at the fairgrounds.

Come and walk through the brand new set up designed to help the most vulnerable of our community members

during the coldest nights of the year.

Thank you for your support in this important endeavor!

Josh Gering

Hub City Mission Director

Lewis County Veterans' Relief Fund

Carolyn Schoenborn recently met with the Lewis County Public Health and Social Services Advisory Board. George Dodd gave information on Veteran's services and he is particularly interested in locating military veterans living at or below

the poverty line. As part of the Lewis County Veterans' Relief Fund, he needs help getting information to veterans' and/or their families that might qualify for a special salary compensation. The program is not a type of disabilities compensation. Contact

George at George.dodd@lewiscountywa.gov or (360) 740-1417 – any help you can give in helping George reach out to veterans here in Lewis County would be greatly appreciated.

Stories of Faith in Action

A passion for justice — and Jesus

A simple pot of rice and beans originally brought Eidas Rivas to Santuario Lutheran, Waltham, Mass. Rivas, who is 34, made them at her mother's request for a potluck following evening worship. She hadn't planned on getting involved at Santuario; her intention was to "just come that Sunday and be done with it."

But it was the way the community embraced her three children—all with special needs—that kept Rivas coming back. Today she's deeply invested in the new ELCA congregation and so are her children, who serve as acolytes there.

For Rivas, belonging to Santuario is important because "we do a lot of social justice." This passion for service is a common thread among the congregation's young Latino membership, said Ángel Marrero, pastor and mission developer there.

Members lead a variety of outreach efforts, including a free food pantry, GED classes and more. Last fall,

in the wake of Hurricane Maria, Rivas and two other young adults at Santuario organized a donation drive for Puerto Rican families whose lives were devastated by the disaster.

Rivas remembers the constant flow of people and donations and calling Marrero to announce that a 24-foot truck had arrived—full of canned food for the people on the island.

"I was expecting 10 boxes," Marrero said of the effort. "We filled two airplanes (of donations) out of this mission church!"



He said the event was a turning point in his ministry with Santuario. New young people had found the congregation through it and asked him: "What's keeping you all together?"

Marrero answered, "We do this because of Jesus."

Now 78 people—and counting—are involved in Santuario's life and ministry, a reality that wouldn't be possible, Marrero said, without Mission Support.

Mission Support from the ELCA New England Synod and the ELCA church-wide organization fund Marrero's work with Santuario, which shares space and a partnership with First Lutheran Church of Waltham.

"The dollars you put in your offering ... is what allows me the freedom to work in Waltham (with the Latino community)," Marrero said. "Through the partnership with the larger church, it is possible to do ministry among them."

Happy Thanksgiving!



- "Being Thankful is not in a day, but it's a lifestyle."~ *Unknown*
- If you don't appreciate what you have, you may as well not have it.~ *Rosalene Glickman*
- "The best things are nearest: breath in your nostrils, light in your eyes, flowers at your feet, duties at your hand, the path of God just before you."~ *Robert Louis Stevenson*
- Let us rise up and be thankful, for if we didn't learn a lot today, at least we learned a little, and if we didn't learn a little, at least we didn't get sick, and if we got sick, at least we didn't die; so, let us all be thankful. ~ *Buddha*

November Celebrations

Birthdays

2 Jonathan Isaacson
Jennifer Willson
3 Matt Edwards
Matt Meagher
4 Nathaniel Birchard
5 Susan Donaldson
Steve Kostanich
7 Clara Gilliland
8 Kaylynn Mitchell
11 David March
12 Kathryn Rotter
Johnathan Vlach
13 Colt Conzatti
14 Rachel March
18 David Barber
Helen Buda

20 Meg Nelson
21 Marilyn Fenn
22 Georgie Radnich
23 David Stanfield
Emma Thomas
25 Scott Judd
Kerry Vance

Anniversaries

4 Jill and Jerry Carlson
12 Carmen and Mike Brown
18 Shirley and Ron
Kuxhausen
23 Gail and Larry Dean

Baptism Anniversaries

2 Anna Russell
4 Will Cummings

7 Christian, Timothy,
Matthew and Eva Munz
10 Kaylynn Mitchell
11 Catie Scott
15 Mia Suhrbier
18 Kasey Ramacher
25 Luke Amrine
Eric Moir
29 Susan Donaldson
Ron Kuxhausen
Justin Wilson

If we missed your birthday or anniversary, let us know! Call the church office at 748-4741 or e-mail: office@stjohnschehalis.net.

Bits and Pieces

We rejoice and celebrate with David March, Hans Meier and Callen Ryan on their Affirmation of Baptism on October 28. Congratulations on this important step in your spiritual journey.

Thank you . . .

Dear St. John's Family, Thank you so much for your kindness and compassion, your prayers and words of sympathy. We feel supported and blessed.
Keith, Ceci, Nate, Ezra and Jane Birchard

New Address:

Lorna Johnson
2274 Rice Road
Chehalis, WA 98532
360-269-9128

Ann Salzer
1911 S Sheridan
Tacoma, WA 98405

FYI:

Because of several incidents involving equipment in the Community Center kitchen and store room being damaged or misused, the doors to both the kitchen and store

room are being kept locked. Recently the door to the freezer was left open and contents spilled on the floor for several hours before it was discovered. Most of the items had to be thrown away.

A master key will open both the kitchen and store room doors. If you need to access either of them, contact Linda in the office or our custodian Bernie and we will make arrangements to open them. Thank you for your cooperation.

Giving to Support St. John's

As a church we encourage those who are part of the St. John's family give to the work of our congregation. We believe you should not feel burdened by the issue of giving but in fact, find it a joy! We are pleased to provide e-giving options as an alternative to giving cash and

checks in the offering plate (your cash and checks are always welcome!).

- **Mobile Phone:** Scan the QR code provided here to access our mobile giving site and follow the prompts.
- **Our Website** – on your computer, go to www.stjohnschehalis.net and click on the “donate” button.

[stjohnschehalis.net](http://www.stjohnschehalis.net) and click on the “donate” button.

- **Online Banking** – Arrange to give through bill-pay at your own bank's website.



November 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Wednesday's Together!</i> 4:15 p.m. Kids of the Kingdom 4:30 p.m. St. John's Knitting Ministry 5:30 p.m. Dinner is Served – All are welcome! 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Practice				1 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center	2 8:00 a.m. Women's Exercise Group Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed	3
4 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Confirmation Class Adult Study 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Youth Bible Study 5:00 p.m. Weblos Scout Troop #373 6:00 p.m. Annual Pie Social and Talent Show	5 8:00 a.m. Women's Exercise Group 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Girls Basketball 6:00 p.m. Social Ministry 7:00 p.m. Youth and Family	6 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship Leaders 10:00 a.m. Lewis County Genealogical Society Board 3:30 p.m. Soccer Practice 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center	7 8:00 a.m. Women's Exercise Group 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule)	8 3:30 p.m. Soccer Practice 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center	9 8:00 a.m. Women's Exercise Group Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed	10
11 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Confirmation Class Adult Study 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Youth Bible Study 5:00 p.m. Weblos Scout Troop #373	12 8:00 a.m. Women's Exercise Group 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Girls Basketball	13 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship Leaders 11:30 a.m. Women's Lunch Bunch at Denny's 3:30 p.m. Soccer Practice 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 6:00 p.m. Mutual Ministry 6:30 p.m. Church Council	14 8:00 a.m. Women's Exercise Group 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule)	15 12:00 p.m. Young At Heart 3:30 p.m. Soccer Practice 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 7:00 p.m. Men's Evening Bible Study Visitor Deadline	16 8:00 a.m. Women's Exercise Group Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed	17 10:00 a.m. ELCA Women's Bible Study and Brunch 3:00 p.m. Birthday Party in Community Center
18 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Confirmation Class Adult Study 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Youth Bible Study 5:00 p.m. Weblos Scout Troop #373	19 8:00 a.m. Women's Exercise Group 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Girls Basketball	20 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship Leaders 3:30 p.m. Soccer Practice 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 6:30 p.m. Lewis County Genealogical Society	21 8:00 a.m. Women's Exercise Group 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule)	22 	23 8:00 a.m. Women's Exercise Group Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed	24 10:00 a.m. Mobile Meals at Gather in Centralia
25 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Confirmation Class Adult Study 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Youth Bible Study 5:00 p.m. Weblos Scout Troop #373	26 8:00 a.m. Women's Exercise Group 11:00 a.m. Altar Guild 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Girls Basketball 6:00 p.m. Worship and Music 7:00 p.m. Habitat for Humanity	27 3:30 p.m. Soccer Practice 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 7:00 p.m. Book Guild at the home of Katie Giuliani	28 8:00 a.m. Women's Exercise Group 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule)	29 3:30 p.m. Soccer Practice 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center	30 8:00 a.m. Women's Exercise Group Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed	

★ For up to date calendar information, visit our website, www.stjohnschehalis.net and click on the "News" tab ★

Poinsettias for the Sanctuary

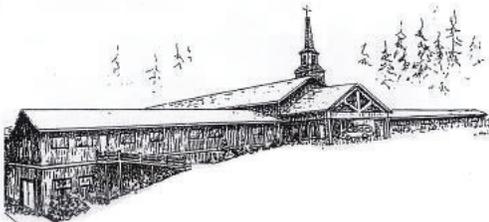
St. John's Altar Guild members are asking for your help in decorating the sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas Services. Poinsettias will be used to decorate the sanctuary and are available through the Altar Guild for \$9 each. Poinsettias can be given in honor or memory of a loved one, or given to the glory of God. You are welcome to bring your own poinsettia (mark your name on the bottom and take it home after Christmas services). To donate toward the purchase of a poinsettia, fill out the form below and give it, along with the money for the poinsettias, to any Altar Guild member, or mail the form to the church office by **December 22**. Please make checks out to St. John's Altar Guild.

Altar Guild members are Jan Cosser, Gail Dean, Mary DuBois, Marilyn Fenn, Joann Hulse, Nancy Lynch, Patty Olsen, Mary Rogers, Diane Rudorfer and Linda Young.

Name: _____

I wish to donate # _____ poinsettias at \$9.00 each. Total amount: \$ _____

- In Honor of _____
- Memory of: _____
- To the Glory of God
- I will provide a poinsettia



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